

## WORLD HISTORY TWO, HONORS

### Writing Assignment One — Foundations Of The Classical Tradition

During this, our first quarter, we have reviewed our knowledge of the first (roughly) four thousand years of recorded history so that we might understand the story of a fictional Danish prince storming around an English stage at the height of the **Renaissance** in Europe. The conflicts of this play offer us a view of a world awash with competing ideas and ideologies, which reminds me...

*ideology* |,īdē'ăləjē, ,īdē-|

*noun*

*(pl. ideologies) a system of ideas and ideals, especially one that forms the basis of economic or political theory and policy: the ideology of republicanism.*

• *the ideas and manner of thinking characteristic of a group, social class, or individual: a critique of bourgeois ideology.*

Hamlet's world (oddly Denmark) offers us a view of the complexities of the tradition we call classical. Our review of **Antiquity** and **the Middle Ages** (sic) has identified the main combatants in the war for Hamlet's sanity. He resides at a moment in time and space in which **Greco-Roman culture** collided with **Judeo-Christianity** in a landscape soaked in the cultures and traditions of many **pagan** peoples at a time when **Europeans** had just solidified their relations with the peoples of the Middle and Far East, made contact with the peoples of the Novus Mundi, and monetized their contact with the peoples of west and sub-Saharan Africa and some of the peoples of the Asian sub-continent. Hamlet reflects the profusion of these paradigms and ideologies. *Shakespeare's art reflects one of the central paradigms governing the Renaissance in Europe: perspective and the dis-orientations and re-orientations it can cause.*

For this assignment, you must find a figure from Antiquity, the Middle Ages or the Renaissance and offer an analysis of this figure's contribution to the tradition we call classical<sup>1</sup>. This analysis will take the shape of a composition roughly five hundred words in length with citations from no less than two sources, either primary or secondary<sup>2</sup>. Wikipedia is not a valid source for this assignment. However, it is an excellent place to begin our search for a figure fit for analysis. The terms and phrases in bold print above offer some useful keywords for a search of whatever database you choose to use.

Please identify no less than five figures fit for analysis no later than Moon Day 27 October. Record the requisite information for each of these figures in the table below. we will use this list to determine the focus of our composition.

name, birth date and place	era	contribution

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<sup>1</sup> Just for fun, here's the definition of "the classical tradition" concocted by the folks at Harvard. It might help focus your thoughts a bit: The Western classical tradition is the reception of classical Greco-Roman antiquity by later cultures, especially the post-classical West, involving texts, imagery, objects, ideas, institutions, monuments, architecture, cultural artifacts, rituals, practices, and sayings.

<sup>2</sup> Rough Draft: 31 October / Final Draft: 5 November. Is this acceptable?

